

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /200 W

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R 101614Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3732

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O N D O N 1 1 6 1 5

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ETRD, BG, UK

SUBJECT: UK-BANGLADESH COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS

1. ACCORDING TO FCO SOUTH ASIAN DEPARTMENT HEAD CHALMERS, BRITISH ARE WORKED UP OVER BENGALLEE JUTE. BENGALLEES HAVE JUST CANCELLED FUTURE CONTRACTS FOR JUTE TO UK, PLEADING POOR CROP AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES.

2. IN FACT BRITISH FEEL BENGALLEES ARE WELCHING ON CONTRACTS BECAUSE WORLD PRICE OF JUTE HAS GONE UP. UNFORTUNATELY BRITISH CONTRACTING FIRMS HAVE IN MANY CASES ENTERED INTO OTHER CONTRACTS USING THE JUTE AT OLD AGREED PRICE. THERE IS A STORM OF PROTEST DESCENDING ON HMG MINISTERS (ESPECIALLY FROM DUNDEE) JUST PRIOR TO ELECTION EXPECTED IN OCTOBER HERE. IT ESPECIALLY AFFECTS WELL-PLACED MINISTERS SUCH AS JUDITH HART, WHO HEADS MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT.

3. CHALMERS EXPECTS BENGALLEES HAVE TO BE GIVEN SEVERE TALKING-TO THIS WEEK BY FCO MINSTATE ENNALS AND OTHER

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STALWART FRIENDS OF SUBCONTINENT IN PARLIAMENT. ADDI-

TIONALLY BANGLADESH MAY HAVE TO PAY CONSEQUENCES IN CONTEXT
OF UK PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE EITHER BILATERALLY OR
THROUGH CONSORTIUM.
SOHM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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